28 March 2014

**Time**: 2:00 pm -4: 00 Pm

**Venue**: SofOmar Meeting room, ILRI campus, Addis Ababa

**Attendes:** Beth Cullen (ILRI), Kindu Mekonnen (ILRI\Africa RISING), Eliud Birachi (CIAT), Wellington Jogo (CIP), Simret Yasabu (ILRI\Africa RISING), Melkamu Bezabih (ILRI), Steffen Schulz (CIP), Aster Gebrekirstos (ICRAF), Girma Tesfahun (ICARDA), Aberra Adie (ILRI), Tilahun Amede (ICRISAT), Temesgen Alene(ILRI\Africa RISING), Annet Mulema(ILRI), Iain Wright (ILRI), Frederic Baudron (CIMMIT), Kassahun Mengistu (IFPRI), Elias Damtew (ILRI)

**Meeting Agenda items**

1. Progress update
2. Discussion on the protocols
3. Next priorities
4. AOB

**Agenda items 1: Progress update**

**CIAT**

* The data are ready and has been assembled
* Data entry is 50 % complete and will be finished by the end of next week to be followed by cleaning
* We are planning a write-shop workshop for Africa RISING site coordinators and some partners . We are tying to include IP members for the write-shop
* If all agree, the write shop will be around the end of April. We believe that it will give a chance to finalise the appropriate focus on for the market and value chain research protocols.

**CIP**

* Started planting for the Belg season
* Working to identify community seed producers and two farmers have been selected
* Demonstration plots on using quality seed in Sinana have also been established

**ILRI**

* IP establishment completed in Sinana and Lemo
* Organized a field visit to Debre Berhan for Global Yield Gap and Water Productivity Atlas participants. Around 35 workshop participants took part in the field visit. In addition, Basona Worena woreda extension head, a senior researcher from Debre Birhan Agri Res Center, DAs and some farmers from Gudo Beret participated in the field visit.
* Recruiting drivers for our project sites. Interviews were completed this week and suitable candidates were identified
* Abera and Melkamu made a field visit to to Hossana to deliver training on forage establishment/management, vegetable production, sheep selection/feeding/health for fattening and market linkages. They also made an experience sharing visit to Angacha/Karakicho farmers (25 km from Hosana) in the neighboring zone, including the eighteen Africa RISING project farmers who are engaged in Small scale irrigation for vegetable and fodder production

**ICRAF**

* Finalized almost all reports and these have been sent to the communications team to share broadly
* We would like to start the next activity as soon as possible

**Agenda items 2: Discussion on the protocols**

Under this agenda item Peter Thorne presented some summary remarks on the Africa RISING research protocols which were submitted by CG partners and then followed by discussions, comments, questions and Answers

**Comment :** some said that they are new and might not understand the protocol very well. As a result the protocols they developed may mention one person but it doesn’t mean that it is one person involved in the development as well as the implementation

**Response:** as far as the deliverable are delivered it doens’t matter whether the protocols mention just one person

**Que:** There must be a clear deliverable from each person for each protocol

**Ans:** we should not think as if one person is the one to deliver it is the team who are responsible for that and the protocol lead scientists will need to make sure that the team delivers as a whole

**Que**: When is the timeline to submit the protocol which will be revised

**Ans**: for the Meher cropping activities we can agree to finalize and submit in the coming two weeks i.e by 11th of April. However other protocols that are not dependent on the timing of the Meher season can be finalised later

**Comment** : it would be good and helpful to discuss with Kindu and Peter before submitting the next version

**Que** : It was mentioned that we need to rationalize across centers. What do we mean by that?

**Ans**: There needs to be a balance across centers in-terms of activities as well as budget. No one centre should expect a disproportionate amount of funds.

**Que**: How can we know and make sure that Gender is being mainstreamed in these protocols?

**Ans**: We need to have a separate discussion on these and see how we integrate Gender in our protocols

**Comment** : Once the protocols are agreed there needs to be some discussions on how we link them up with the innovation platforms

**Comment** : We should not consider the IPs as the only ways of doing the research. Similarly, not all protocols will need to have strong gender disaggregation. We need to make sure that the protocols align with other activities. The degree of the IP and Gender focus depends on the context of all each of the research activities.

**Suggestion**: we need to make sure that the IPs are well informed about what is going on and we need to start thinking about developing a guideline on how to involve the IP. The ILRI IP team will meet on Friday 04 April and will have some initial discussions around this issue.

**Comment** : It will be good to have a timeline for finalizing and signing the contracts as well as the duration they will be lasting for

**Suggestion** : Each CG partner will be given an empty draft contract for review, Peter Thorne to provide the draft contract

**Next Big Tasks**

* CG partners to work together on the individual protocols and to submit a budget that is reasonable for the total commitment to their centre.
* If a partner is mentioned in a protocol, it is essential that they make a proper contribution to its development
* Centres need to rationalize some protocols where there is duplication across centers

Suggestions from Iain:

* every protocol to have clear deliverables from the team
* the money needs to be spent and he suggesed the group to have informal assessment with in the team on how deliverables in the protocols will be delivered
* think about performance management as well

**Comment** : There needs to be a flexibility from Africa RISING side to accommodate if new activities emerge

**Suggestion**: There will always be flexibility as we will be learning from the activities

**Que**: What is our plan for scaling the demonstration activities we do in 2013

**Ans**: We need to see if there are specific activities with results to scale up at the kebele levels with specific interest groups

**Que** : What is our plan on Enset as it was raised in the IP, can we give the task to partners like Araka research center or Arba Minch University?

**Res**: Enset may need to be covered by greater involvement of non-CG partners (e.g. Areka Research Centre). Kindu will organize and discuss how to proceed

**Suggestion** : There is a new initiative from B&M gates foundation and we could link up. in one of ICRISAT’s proposal we also tried to look some aspect of the system though in is not on the germplasm issue

**Que**: How can we fund the partners staff support cost, if a technician needs tools ....

**Res**: There will be operational buget and the site coordinators needs to be informed

**Res**: Where relationships with local partners are based on existing trust it may be possible for them to disburse funds and settle later

**Que**: Can we get a copy of the latest project report submitted to USAID?

**Res**: Yes , it will soon be available on CG space but for those who needs it urgentlyit will be sent through email. It was also suggested that all partners should subscribe to the website so that they receive notifications whenever new outputs are released.

**Next Meeting** : 24 April 2014 , Sof Omar meeting room